**Occupational Therapy Tip Sheet** 





## What is visual memory?

• Visual memory is the ability to remember details of what was seen (features, words, objects, patterns or designs, etc.).

## Why is visual memory important?

- It helps us pay attention to details.
- It is important for successful learning and necessary for reading and writing.

## How does visual memory help children?

- Recognize and remember faces, shapes, colours, numbers, letters and places
- Remember sight words and phone numbers
- Copy work from the board or a book
- Use tools with letters or numbers on it (keyboard, calculator, ruler, etc.)

## Practice some of the following activities to develop visual memory:

• Play games that require remembering where an item is placed to later find it (*I Spy*, *Memory*, *etc.*).



• Play games that require remembering many images (use detailed pictures from books, online resources, create your own with small items on a tray, etc.).



• Show a card with a simple picture, shape, letter or number on it. Remove the image and have the child draw it from memory. If this is too challenging, keep the example in view for the first attempt. For the second attempt, remove the example and have the child draw from memory.

